



Andbe Home administrator Nancy McGinnis looks over rules and regulations for nursing homes. Ms. McGinnis took over the reins Jan. 8.

Administrator likes what she sees

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Andbe Home administrator Nancy McGinnis has had a couple of months to get her feet on the ground in Norton and she likes what she sees. "We're so lucky in small communities — we know our residents, even before they come here," she said. Ms. McGinnis, originally from Hill City, came on board at the Andbe Home Jan. 8. She has been working in nursing homes as an administrator since 1984, most recently in Marquette. Prior to that, she worked in Oakley. "I wanted to move back to the area and be closer to my folks," she said. Her parents are Allen and Darlene

Riggs, Hill City. She is living with them and commuting until she locates a house in Norton. She said she tried to get away from nursing homes for awhile and opened a small ice cream and soda shop of her own in Marquette. "But, I missed the residents," she said. And, found herself back in the profession she has come to love. Ms. McGinnis had nothing but praise for the staff at the Andbe Home. "We have a great staff here — they are very caring and dedicated. "The activity and social program is the best I've ever seen. We all work as a team. The residents are always our No. 1 focus," she said.

Ms. McGinnis was a former member of the Marquette Chamber of Commerce and is a member of Kansas Adult Care Executives. She has two children, a son, Chance, who is a senior at Little River High School and a daughter, Season, a freshman. "My daughter is very excited about re-locating to Norton. She is really looking forward to living here," she said. In her spare time, Ms. McGinnis enjoys wood crafts and spending time with her children. One of her talents includes working with balloons and making balloon arches and sculptures. "I love the area and I'm glad I'm here," she said.

-Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Tornado whistle blows; now what?

Have plan in place, don't wait

By TOM DREILING
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The National Weather Service issues a tornado warning. The sirens sound. Where to go? What to do? Even before the warnings are given, it is the hope of those who keep an eye on their radar and an eye on the sky, that all those in the path of the storm have made plans in advance on what actions they

should take. People being people, many have no clue, no plan, just hope nothing results from the eeriness such warnings provoke. The experts urge plans be made now for those who fall into the category of "what to do?" For starters, the National Weather Service offers the following: **Before a tornado strikes** — Look for approaching storms which may include a dark greenish tint; contain large hail; produce a loud roaring noise of rushing wind; and importantly monitor NOAA Weather Radio for the latest updates. **Where to go when a warning has been issued** 1. **Indoors** (a) Go to a pre-designed shelter area, such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or

the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of the interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Do not open windows. 2. **If you are in a vehicle** (a) Your first option might be driving away from the danger. Notice the direction of movement of the tornado and drive at a right angle to a shelter. Remember to drive at a right angle, never try to outrun the tornado. (b) Otherwise, get out of your vehicle and lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding. (c)

Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location. 3. **If you are in a trailer or mobile home.** (a) Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building, or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes. If all else fails, according to the National Weather Service, remember to DUCK: **Down** to the lowest level **Under** something sturdy **Cover** your head **Keep** in a shelter until the storm passes. The weather service personnel emphasize there is no fool proof measure that can guarantee your safety. But they say following the tips above greatly increases your chances of survival.

Voting machines are ready

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Ballot in. Check. Vote counted. Check. Totals recorded. Check. All five of the Auto-Mark voting machines were checked and re-checked Thursday by Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt in preparation for Tuesday's city elections in Norton and Lenora. Mr. Wyatt will set up two machines in Lenora and three in Norton. Voting will begin at 7 a.m. in both cities. In Lenora voters go to the new Community Center — in Norton, they vote at the American Legion. The polls will close at 7 p.m. "At first people were a little intimidated by the machines," Mr. Wyatt said. He said that now, after three other elections, he has been told by many voters that they love using the machines. For one thing, he said, they can see the ballot. A touch of a button enlarges the screen for easy reading. "They are very user friendly," he said. Mr. Wyatt said Norton County has always had an excellent counting board, but the machines really cut down on the amount of time it takes to count the votes after the polls close. The machines automatically tabulate the votes and separate out the ones it cannot count, i.e., ones with write-in

names. Those ballots are hand-counted. "Last election, we only had about 25 ballots we had to count by hand," said Mr. Wyatt. It is federal law that mandates the access to a machine at every voting location. The law provides that every person, no matter their disability, has the right to be able to vote. Conforming to this law did not come cheap. Each of the voting machines costs about \$8,000 while the printers run about \$7,600 each. This does not count the cost of other equipment or the cost of programing the machines for each election.

Telegram: (785) 877-3361

American Legion's First Annual Barbecue
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Dine first and then dance to the music of JIMMY DEE AND THE FABULOUS DESTINATIONS
Norton American Legion
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.; Dance: 8:00-11:00 p.m.
Dinner and Dance-\$25; Dance Only-\$10 for Non-Members
Dinner tickets must be purchased by April 11.
See Carol at First State Bank or Karla at the Chamber Office or Mail Check to NCAC, PO Box 225, Norton, KS 67654
TICKETS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU

Building's layout reviewed

By Cynthia Haynes
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The proposed Norton County Emergency Medical Services building could get a basement to provide both a storm shelter and additional storage space. Tom Arpin with BG consultants, Manhattan, showed the Norton County commissioners a proposed layout of the new facility during their meeting this week. The proposal shows four bays for ambulances or other emergency vehicles, a meeting and training room, two offices, a kitchen, a dorm, restrooms and two storage areas. There was space, however, for a storm shelter for the emergency workers, who will be manning the building 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency Medical Technician Aden Schillig suggested that it would be a good idea to turn one of the storage areas into an additional dorm since there are both male and female technicians on the emergency crews. While, he said, he didn't think it would be a problem for both sexes to sleep in the same room, it might not meet with universal approval in Norton. Mr. Arpin said that that was understandable and he thought the larger storage area could be converted to a second sleeping room. The commissioners asked about strengthening one of the offices to withstand storms, but Mr. Arpin said they might just as well think about a basement. "You only need that storm shelter 1 percent of the time," he said. "When you start turning offices into storm shelters you lose windows. If you build a basement, it's its own structure and is good for storage and record keeping. If you do a storm shelter above ground you are just adding an upstairs

basement." He said conditions would determine whether a basement is feasible under the structure. The commissioners assured him that Prairie Land Electric, which is just next door, has a large basement so it should be possible to build one. Mr. Arpin suggested a 50-foot-by-40-foot basement for the office and meeting rooms but not under the vehicle bays. He gave a rough estimate of \$60,000 to do the extra 200 sq.ft. "If you want to make a true shelter," Mr. Arpin said, "I'll make it (the building) with a concrete floor. That way flying debris, cars, tractors, etc, can land on it. And, put in columns for support." After some discussion Emergency Medical Director Jane Wyatt asked that a basement with an outside covered stairway be added to the plans. Amy Griffey, with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, which has been helping administer the Community Block Grant the county received to help pay for about 50 percent of the project, said that she would notify the U.S. Department of Commerce that the county is adding to the scope of the work. "They may say OK," she said. "But, they'll probably say do what you want with your money," Mr. Arpin also discussed the drains in the vehicle bay area. There is to be a trench drain down the front inside the doors so ice and snow can melt off and run directly into the drain, he said. The bay floor would be sloped slightly to facilitate drainage. Other things to do with the building included: • Talking to the City of Norton about getting the building on the city sewer system. • Adding air conditioning to the vehicle bays as some equipment, especially for intravenous injection cannot get too hot. • Getting an emergency backup generator for the building. Commissioner John Miller said that the county owns between seven and 13 of the generators and can probably get one out there. • Looking at alternative heating systems, such as heat pumps which take the heat out of ground water. Prairie Land uses that system, Commissioner Leroy Lang said, and it would be good for the county to at least look at it because even if it costs more initially, it might save on heating costs in the long run. "We have to think a little further than our little box we've all been living in." Commissioner Miller said. • Putting a parking area on the south side of the building and deciding how traffic will flow — probably not directly onto U.S. 36 for safety and to avoid traffic. • Facing on the building to complement the Prairie Land building. While the proposal is for a metal building, a brick facing can be added, Mr. Arpin said, so that it will look similar to its neighbor.

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Friday, March 28, 2008
from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Norton County High Gymnasium
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